



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

26 June 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1162, "An Act To Ensure Safe Drinking Water for Maine Families."

This bill mandates the reporting of private well water tests to the Department of Health and Human Services, and the development of uniform water testing recommendations by the Department. It requires the Department to impose fees on water tests performed by the State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, which will go into a fund to promote more water testing. The bill requires landlords of property with a private well to disclose recent water testing results to tenants.

This bill is unnecessary. Testing of private wells for arsenic already has increased from about 26.5% of wells in 2003 to 45% of wells in 2012. Maine Centers for Disease Control & Prevention already has recommendations for testing of private wells and already is engaged in updating well water testing educational materials. Maine CDC also already has compiled, geocoded, and mapped over 400,000 private well water test results available from HETL. All this bill does is impose fees to water testing to support work that is already being done.

For these reasons, I return LD 1162 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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